

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Generally

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-24 are pending in the application; that claims 1-13 are withdrawn from consideration; that claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; that claims 14-17, 19, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Miller U.S. Pat. No. 5,682,648 in view of Ward U.S. Pat. No. 4,894,887 and Markowitz U.S. Pat. No. 2,644,212; that claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the same references applied to claim 14, and further in view of McIntosh U.S. Pat. No. 3,159,372; that claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the same references applied to claim 14, and further in view of Wakefield U.S. Pat. No. 2,363,914 and Mizuno U.S. Pat. No. 3,129,477; and that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant, by this Amendment, cancels the rejected claims, and submits new claims 25-31 in accordance with the Examiner's indications.

Response to Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has indicated that claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claim 22 and has not rewritten or resubmitted it anew for examination.

Indication of Allowability

The Examiner has further indicated that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a

a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has submitted new claim 25, which consists of former claim 18, rewritten to include all of the limitations of former claim 14, its base claim, there being no intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 25 is in immediate condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim numbers 26-29 depend from new claim 25. Accordingly, such claims should also be allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested.

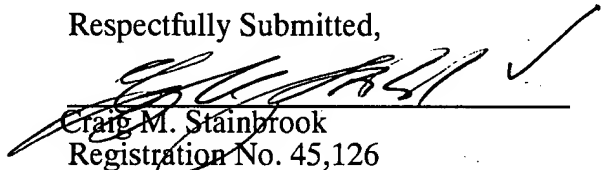
New claim 30 recites the same limitations as those set forth in claim 25, with the exception that the magnets are not recited as being rare earth magnets. This limitation is not critical to patentability and has not been indicated as being so in prior Office communications. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this claim, though broader than the claim indicated as allowable, is also in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of these amendments and comments it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable, and such allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney if, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference will in any way expedite prosecution of this application.

Date: 4 Oct 2001

Respectfully Submitted,


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